

Democrats for joining together to pass a budget framework that will return money to the taxpayers and provide reasonable spending increases. The economy continues to show troubling signs, and we must take decisive steps, like this vote today, to ensure sound fiscal policy. The American people can take heart that tax relief is one important step closer to reality.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Education Reform Legislation

May 9, 2001

I commend members of the House Education and Workforce Committee for taking the first step toward reforming America's education system and making sure no child is left behind. This legislation includes monumental reforms that promote real accountability, annual testing, and funding flexibility. Parents need to know if their children are making progress, and this legislation meets that priority. I am also pleased that this bill gives unprecedented freedom and flexibility to States and local school districts to determine the best way to spend their Federal education dollars.

I urge Members of Congress to continue building upon our efforts to expand parental options. I will support amendments on the House floor that increase parental options and involvement.

I applaud Chairman John Boehner and Ranking Minority Member George Miller for working in a bipartisan way to move this important piece of legislation forward.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

May 9, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with

respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,

May 9, 2001.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of John P. Walters To Be Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

May 10, 2001

The President. Thank you all so very much for being here. It's an honor to see so many Members of the United States Congress who are here. Thank you so very much for coming—and members from both political parties, members who are dedicated to joining with an administration which is dedicated to reducing drug abuse around America. Thank you for being here.

I'm pleased that members of my Cabinet have joined us: the Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft; the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. Thank you all for being here. Mr. Surgeon General, thank you for being here, as well, sir. We're honored to have you here.

Also with us is John J. DiIulio, who is the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. John is on the leading edge of encouraging faith-based programs to become energized to help people who need help. And John, thank you so much for being here, as well.

I'm honored to be joined on stage by five Americans—well, six Americans—five Americans who won't speak—[*laughter*]*—*which is saying something for the first American I'm going to introduce, William J. Bennett—[*laughter*]*—*he was our Nation's first drug czar, former Secretary of Education, a fearless, fearless fighter against drug abuse—as well, as Joe A. Califano, who has a center on addiction and substance abuse at Columbia University, former Secretary of Health and Education and Welfare under President Jimmy Carter, as well, like Mr. Bennett, a fearless advocate for those of us who are